

DODWORTH Urban District Council.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

ARTHUR E. WHITE, M.D.

1905.

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To THE

DODWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

BIRTHS.—The number of births occurring in Dodworth parish during 1905 was 111, which gives a rate of 31.5 per 1,000 on the estimated population (3,524).*
63 were boys, and 48 girls.

The birth rate for rural districts in England and Wales in 1905 was 26'3.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths registered in the year, including deaths in public institutions, was 52, which gives a death rate of 14.7 per year per 1,000 estimated population.

The death rate for rural districts in England and Wales in 1905 was 14.9.

Twenty-seven males died, as compared with 24 females. The population of Dodworth was therefore increased by 36 males and 24 females in 1905.

^{*} The present population of Dodworth is roughly obtained by multiplying the number of new houses (53) occupied since the last census in 1901 by the average number of persons (4.5) per house in Dodworth, adding to the product the excess of births over deaths during the same period. This gives the estimated increase of population since 1901, in which year the census figure was 3,022.

One death by accident occurred to a non-resident, and is not included.

It will be interesting to compare some previous death rates and birth rates with those of 1905:—

DE	ATHS	•		BIRTHS.						
1900	• • •	51	• • • • •	1900	• • •	106				
1901	• • •	52	• • • • •	1901	• • •	129				
1902	• • •	61	• • • • •	1902	• • •	129				
1903	• • •	66	• • • • •	1903	• • •	117				
1904	• • •	62	• • • • •	1904	• • •	146				
1905	• • •	52	• • • • •	1905		III				

Eighteen children died under 1 year of age, which is a rate of 162 per 1,000 births registered.

Six of these were children under 3 weeks old, and their deaths may be put down to causes preceding or at birth, and are to be considered unavoidable.

Deducting these 6, we have 12 remaining, which gives a mortality of 108 per 1,000, which means that one child in every 9 has died through perhaps avoidable causes. 5 out of the 12 died from diarrhæa, and 1 from each of the following—measles, erysipelas, rickets, convulsions, bronchitis, pneumonia.

There is no doubt that many children are carried off by disease because of constitutions weakened through improper feeding and neglect. Strong, healthy children do not so readily take disease, and when they are attacked their chances of recovery are greater.

Nine persons died over 65 years old.

Localities of Deaths.—In the following table the figures for 1904 and 1905 are complete except for some unimportant outlying places not mentioned in the table. I have not complete returns for the previous years, but a blank space means an insignificant number, say under 3 or 4:—

	Station Road.	Dodworth Green.	Barnsley Road.	Northfield.	High Street.	Jermyn Croft.	Pilley Hill.	Cooper Row.	Oldroyd Row.	South Street.	Snow Hill.	Silver Street.	Keresforth Road.	New Street.	Gelder Row.	Senior Row.	Gilroyd.
1900.		8	_		6		10					$\frac{-}{6}$			_	_	6
1901.		-	-	_	$\frac{-}{4}$	$\frac{-}{5}$				_	5	7			_		
1902.		7		_	8		7			7							
1903.			_	-	10	4	8					5	4	8			
1904.	3	4	0	$\frac{}{2}$	11	4	5	2	0	4	0	5	4	3	1	1	3
1905.	4	4	$\overline{2}$	0	10	7	2	1	1	0	0	4	1	0	$\overline{2}$	0	8

A complete return for a number of years would be of interest. For instance, in 1903, with 8 deaths, it was argued that New Street is a very unhealthy street; but taking the period above of 6 years it is seen that New Street has really a low mortality, with no death last year.

High Street shows the greatest number of deaths for the 6 years, but then High Street has, I believe, the largest population. I have tried, but have failed to obtain the census population for the different streets, which would give to these figures a more definite value. The chief causes of death in 1905 were:

Pneumonia	• • •	• • •	6
Bronchitis	• • •	• • •	5
Phthisis	• • •	• • •	2
Diarrhœa (infants)	• • •	• • •	5
Premature Birth	• • •	• • •	3

The Deaths from infectious diseases were:-

Diphtheria.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.
3	I	2 (in hospital)	I

Deaths in the last 6 years from infectious diseases were:—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—One of the most noticeable features in the public health of Dodworth is the large number of cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria, enteric fever, and erysipelas.

	Sc.F	•	Diph.	E	Int.	F.	Erys.	P	aerp. I	F.	Total.
1900	8	• • •		• • •	1	• • •	1	• • •		•••	10
1901	9	• • •		•••	5	•••	6	• • •	1	• • •	2 [
1902	18	• • •	2	• • •	1	• • •	7	• • •		• • •	28
1903	9	• • •	6	• • •	5	• • •	2		2	. •	24
1904	104	• • •	8	• • •	2	• • •	4	•••		• • •	118
1905	28		34	• • •	3	• •	4			• • •	69

In Dodworth in 1904 the rate of attack per 1,000 population for scarlet fever was very nearly twice as high as in any other town or village in the West Riding, with the sole exception of Hoylandswaine, which had exactly four-fifths of our attack rate.

It may be that the offensive emanations from the sewers through the manholes have played a part in the high incidence of diphtheria, and possibly also of scarlet fever.

In 1905 seven manholes have been closed and ventilators substituted.

DIPHTHERIA.—There appeared to be no marked infectiousness of diphtheria, for though the average family in the 30 infected houses was 6, in only 3 instances were there more than one patient in one house. In these 3 houses were 7 cases. So that there were 27 patients in 27 houses who did not infect the other inmates. This leads one to think that the cases arose from one common source (defective drains and sewers?).

Dr. Kaye kindly examined swabs from throat in two doubtful cases, with negative results.

The schools attended by infected families were:

Some of the children affected did not attend school. Eight children attacked were under 5, one under 2, and one 7 months old.

Measles.—We had a somewhat wide epidemic of measles in November and December, with one death.

Phthisis (Consumption) death-rate for the last five years was:—

which gives a death-rate of ·8 per 1000 persons living for the five years. The phthisis death-rate in England and Wales 1901-5 was 1·46.

Annual Inspection.—I have made a series of visits to the whole of Dodworth and Gilroyd, usually with the Sanitary Inspector, and several nuisances have been remedied, viz.: Substitution of duckett closets and water closets for privies, and repair of defective privies and ashpits.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR E. WHITE, M.D.

